

My favorite image from the last few months was this idea that Franni had actually packed a bag with her toothbrush in it; that she had it right next to her bedside in case at any moment the court would come with a decision and she and AL would have to rush to Washington so he could take a critical vote.

Well, today the time has come and AL will cast his first vote. If there is any silver lining to the past 8 months, it is that AL has had time to prepare for this moment. The times are tumultuous, the stakes are high, and history will forever judge whether we fail or succeed, whether we are courageous or timid.

AL FRANKEN is ready for this job. It is time to get to work, and, AL FRANKEN, there is a desk waiting for you in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION AND CREDENTIALS

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificate of election for a 6-year term, beginning January 3, 2009, for the representation of the State of Minnesota. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate. If there is no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived, and it will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Executive Department

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the fourth day of November, 2008, Al Franken was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Minnesota a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2009.

Witness: His excellency our governor Tim Pawlenty, and our seal hereto affixed at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 30th day of June, in the year of our Lord 2009.

By the governor:

TIM PAWLENTY,
Governor.
MARK RITCHIE,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senator elect will present himself at the

desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office as required by the Constitution and prescribed by law.

The Senator elect, escorted by Mrs. KLOBUCHAR and former Vice President Walter Mondale, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the Vice President; and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations, Senator.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). The majority leader.

MAJORITY PARTY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have a resolution at the desk, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 208) to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the resolution is considered and agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 208) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 208

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party's membership on the following committee for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Leahy (Chairman), Mr. Kohl, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Feingold, Mr. Schumer, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Specter, and Mr. Franken.

Mr. DURBIN. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Madam President, under the authority granted pursuant to S. Res. 18, I announce that Senator FRANKEN has been assigned to the following committees: the Committee on Indian Affairs, the Select Committee on Aging and, as was just agreed to, the Committee on the Judiciary. As soon as the markup is completed in the HELP Committee on the health care bill, he will go on to the HELP Committee.

RECESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we recess 10 minutes early today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:20 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 1371

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to Senator SESSIONS' amendment to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill. The Sessions amendment would make E-Verify permanent and would immediately mandate all Federal contractors and subcontractors to use E-Verify.

First of all, obviously, legislating on and delaying a critical appropriations bill, which is necessary for us to pass quickly to secure our borders, ports of entry, and our interior points of vulnerability, is a delay we do not need. But, secondly, and more importantly, despite claims that this amendment only seeks to reauthorize E-Verify for 3 years, which I do not oppose, the actual language of the amendment of my distinguished colleague would make E-Verify permanent and mandatory.

There would be nothing wrong with that if the system actually worked, but it does not. The distinguished Senator from Alabama and I agree upon one of the main seven principles for immigration reform which I issued 2 weeks ago; namely, that an employer verification system with tough enforcement and auditing is necessary to significantly diminish the job magnet that attracts illegal aliens to the United States. The bottom line is that they mainly come for jobs, and until they are tough on employers, wave after wave is not going to stop.

As we speak, even under the E-Verify system, any individual who steals a Social Security number—and that is easy these days—and has access to a credible fake ID can get a job in the United States. What is more, nothing about E-Verify stops a U.S. citizen from "loaning their identity" to their friends and family to get a job. In either of these cases—an illegal immigrant stealing a Social Security number and getting a fake ID done or some citizen, an employer or whatever, giving a Social Security card to the person—it doesn't do the job because that illegal immigrant can enter into the system. Once they are in the system, they stay in it, never to be removed. So E-Verify, frankly—and I know many in the immigrant community object to it because it only affects immigrants. But there is also another objection, and that is that it is just not tough enough, it is not strong enough. If we are going to make a system permanent, it really ought to work.